His Majestie's GRACIOUS SPEECH TO Both Houses OF PARLAMENT.

On *Wednesday, November* 20. 1661.

Being the first day of their meeting after the ADJOURNMENT.

LONDON,
Printed by *Roger Norton*, one of the Printers to the KING's most Excellent Majesty. 1661.

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My Lords and Gentlemen of the Houſe of Commons,

Know the Viſit I make you this day is not neceſſary, is not of courſe; yet if there were no more in it, it would not be ſtrange that I come to ſee what you and I have ſo long deſired to ſee, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Commons of *England* met together, to Conſult for the Peace and Safety of Church and State, by which Parliaments are reſtored to their Primitive Luſtre and Integrity: I do heartily congratulate with you for this day. But, *My Lords & Gentlemen*, as My coming hither at this time is ſomewhat extraordinary; ſo, the truth is, the occaſion of My coming is more extraordinary; it is to ſay ſomething to you on My own behalf, to ask ſomewhat of you for My Self, which is more then I have done of you, or of thoſe who met here before you, ſince My coming into *England*: I needed not have done

Then, and upon My Conscience I need not do it Now; they did, and you do upon all occasions expresse so great an affection and care of all that concerns Me, that I may very well refer both the matter and manner of your doing any thing for Me, to your own Wisdoms and Kindness. And indeed, if I did think that what I am to say to you now, did alone, or did most concern My self; if the Uneasie condition I am in, if the Straits and Necessities *I* am to struggle with, did not manifestly relate to the Publique Peace and Safety, more then to My own particular, otherwise then as *I* am concerned in the Publique, *I* should not give you this trouble this day; *I* can bear My Necessities which meerly relate to My self, with Patience enough.

Mr. Speaker, and you Gentlemen of the House of Commons, I do not now importune you to make more haste in the setling the constant Revenue of the Crown, then is agreeable to the Method you propose to your selves, to desire you seriously to consider the insupportable Weight that lyes upon it, the Obligations it lyeth under, to provide

provide for the Interest, Honour and Security of the Nation, in another proportion then in any former times it hath been obliged to: I know well you have very affectionately and worthily taken all this into your Thoughts, and will proceed in it with as much Expedition as I can reasonably wish; But I come to put you in minde of the Crying Debts which do every day call upon Me, of some necessary Provisions, which are to be made without delay for the very Safety of the Kingdom; of the great summe of Money that should be ready to discharge the several Fleets when they come home, and for the necessary preparations that are to be made for the setting out new Fleets to Sea against the Spring; that Revenue being already anticipated upon as important Services, which should be assigned to those Preparations. These are the pressing Occasions which I am forced to recommend to you with all possible Earnestness; and do Conjure you to provide for as speedily as is possible, and in such a manner as may give Us security at Home, and some reputation Abroad. I make

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this Diſcourſe to you with ſome Confidence, becauſe *I* am very willing and deſirous that you ſhould throughly examine, whether theſe neceſsities *I* mention be Real or *I*maginary; or whether they are fallen upon Us by *My* fault, *My* own ill *M*anagery, or Exceſſes, and provide for them accordingly. I am very willing that you make a full Inſpection into *My* Revenue, as well the Diſburſements as Receipts; and if you finde it hath been ill managed by any corruption in the Officers I truſt, or by *My* own Unthriftineſs, I ſhall take the Information and Advice you ſhall give *M*e very kindly; I ſay, if you finde it: For, I would not have you believe any looſe Diſcourſes, how confidently ſoever urged, of giving away Fourſcore thouſand pounds in a *M*orning, and many other Extravagancies of that kinde. I have much more reaſon to be ſorry that I have not to Reward thoſe who have ever faithfully ſerved the King *My* Father, and *My* Self, then aſhamed of any Bountie I have exerciſed towards any man.

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My Lords and Gentlemen, I am ſorry to finde that the general Temper and Affections of the Nation are not ſo well compoſed, as I hoped they would have been, after ſo ſignal Bleſsings from God Almighty upon Us all, and after ſo great *Indulgence* and Condeſcenſions from Me towards all *Intereſts*. There are many wicked *Inſtruments* ſtill as active as ever, who labour night and day to diſturb the Publick Peace, and to make all People jealous of each other: *It* will be worthy of your Care and Vigilance to provide proper Remedies for the Diſeaſes of that kinde; and if you finde new Diſeaſes, you muſt ſtudy new Remedies. Let Us not be diſcouraged; if We help one another, We ſhall with Gods bleſsing maſter all Our difficulties: Thoſe which concern Matters of Religion, *I* confeſs to you, are too hard for *Me*, and therefore *I* do commend them to your Care and Deliberation, which can beſt provide for them. *I* ſhall not need to recommend, or put you in minde of the good correſpondence that ought to be kept be-

tween you, for the good of your selves and Me, and the whole Kingdom; and I may tell you, It is very necessary for Us all. You will finde, whoever doth not love Me, doth not love you; and they who have no Reverence for you, have little kindness for Me. Therefore I pray let Us adhere fast to each other, and then We shall, with the help of God, in a short time, perswade or oblige all men to that Submission and Obedience to the Law, as may constitute a full measure of happiness to Prince and people, and perswade Our Neighbours to that esteem and value they have formerly had for Us.

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